

E1 - 5829

Ann Quinlan, Secretary  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E. Street SW  
Washington, D.C. 20423

Date: 1/9/08

Docket No.

35095

JAN 14 2008

MANAGEMENT

Dear Ms. Quinlan,

We are concerned residents in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Alaska where the proposed Port MacKenzie rail extension routes are under review. We understand that you will be receiving an application from the Alaska Railroad for your consideration of proposed routes.

We are submitting, in advance of the application, the June 2003 "Matanuska-Susitna Borough Rail Corridor Study" prepared by Tryck Nyman Hayes, Inc. commissioned by the borough. The study states "the purpose of the MSB Rail Corridor Study was to determine a mix of railroad and highway options for surface access to Port MacKenzie that would:

1. Provide the level of surface transportation access necessary to allow for the safe and efficient movement of material into and out of the MSB and the rest of Alaska.
2. Provide that access in a manner that was generally acceptable to the residents of the project area.
3. Keep the environmental impacts of this major project to a manageable level."

We have been informed that the 2003 study will not be included in the application to be filed by the railroad. We believe that the study is significant, contains myriad issues and should be made available for review by the STB. Keeping in mind that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough is the fastest developing area in Alaska, we believe the study will assist the board in its review.

Your courtesy and consideration is respectfully requested.

Regards,

*Cathi Kramer*

Cathi Kramer  
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*Bill O'Hara*

Bill O'Hara, President  
Big Lake Community Council

**NOTE FROM SEA: The study referenced in this letter is available for review at the STB's offices in Washington, DC. Please contact Dave Navecky at 202-245-0294 to make an appointment to review the subject study.**